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### University of Montana announces online Master's of Educational Leadership Program

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.)

March 15, 2000

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### **UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA ANNOUNCES ONLINE MASTER'S OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**MISSOULA, MT --**

The University of Montana today announced an online Master's of Educational Leadership degree. The degree can be completed entirely over the Internet through the University's online campus at <http://umtonline.net/>. The announcement came from Sharon Alexander, dean of continuing education at UM, during a news conference held today at the office of the Commissioner of Higher Education in Helena.

"Online programs expand access to the high quality education UM has a reputation for putting forth," Alexander said. "These courses will help narrow the gap between rural and urban learners by providing high-caliber programs at a time and cost convenient to the learner."

The educational leadership knowledge base emphasizes the realities of the workplace, blending practical tasks with the conceptual models of effective leadership. The Master's of Educational Leadership degree uses leadership assessment and problem-based learning throughout the curriculum including change/future, research community, communication, management, diversity, and professionalism/socialization to help graduates successfully serve in educational institutions.

-more-



The Master's of Educational Leadership approaches education and leadership from a future-oriented and global perspective. The courses are taught by the same professors and meet the same requirements as their traditional on-campus counterparts. Courses include:

Counseling Fundamentals	Future Studies
Research & Program Evaluation	Foundations Curr & Instruction
Foundations of Leadership	Supervision & Evaluation
School Law	Finance of Public Education
The Middle School	Middle Level Leadership
Philosophy/History/Sociology of Education	Management Cognate #1
Management Cognate #2	

Supporting The University of Montana with the implementation of the Master's of Educational Leadership online program is eCollege.com, a total solutions provider of technology and services that enables educational institutions to offer an Internet-based environment for online campuses, enhanced classroom based teaching, and full distance programs. eCollege.com has awarded the University a grant in the amount of \$103,000 as part of the company's initiative to provide greater access to quality degree programs over the Internet.

"We commend The University of Montana on their commitment to advancing education to the next level," said Rob Helmick, president and CEO of eCollege.com. "Through this online master's degree program, more students will have the opportunity to complete their degree in a manner that fits their lifestyle, independent of time and location barriers."

The UM EOS Education Project is also pleased to announce it has received the Earth Science Enterprise Research Grant award as a result of its online portal and the grant awarded from eCollege.com. The EOS Education Project was selected from among 163 applicants for NASA's \$300,000 Earth Sciences Enterprise Grant. The department will use the three-year award to market and promote three existing online Earth System Science classes for K-12 students. The classes were designed by NASA's Classroom of the Future, located at West Virginia's Wheeling



Jesuit University.

“The purpose of the project is to deliver the online courses as a way of improving science teaching in Montana's schools, as well as enhance science experiences for Montana's many Native American children,” said John Kuglin, director of Educational Outreach. “Adding to the opportunities of the EOS project for Montana teachers is a significant intention, but the additional focus on our important minority population is particularly important both to the future of Montana and the future of the Earth System Science program.”

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